

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

FOR: IOP, IPS, IBS

1. THE CHRISTCHURCH PRESS, SOUTH ISLAND'S LARGEST DAILY (CIRC. 68,000)

RAN FOLLOWING EDITORIAL MAY 2 UNDER HEADING "A PLACE FOR A.N.Z.U.S.
IN THE PACIFIC":

2. "THE ONLY EFFECTIVE, FORMAL DEFENCE ARRANGEMENT REMAINING TO NEW
ZEALAND IS THE A.N.Z.U.S. TREATY. WHEN THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND THE UNITED STATES MET IN WASHINGTON
LAST WEEK AND REAFFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ALLIANCE THEY
PROVIDED ONE RELATIVELY STABLE POINT AMID THE CHANGES TAKING PLACE
IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. THE MILITARY PROVISIONS OF THE S.E.A.T.O.
PACT WERE NEVER VERY EFFECTIVE; ALTHOUGH THESE PROVISIONS HAVE
BEEN REGARDED FOR SOME YEARS AS AN EMBARRASSMENT, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
CO-OPERATION BETWEEN TREATY MEMBERS HAS BEEN FOSTERED. THE FIVE-
POWER DEFENCE AGREEMENT, WHICH LINKED NEW ZEALAND, BRITAIN AUSTRALIA,
SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA, HAS GRADUALLY WITHERED AWAY. THE MORE
GENERAL WILLINGNESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEFEND SMALLER
COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE FACING ATTACK FROM A COMMUNIST STATE,
HAS BEEN ERODED BY EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA.

3. "CYNICS MIGHT CLAIM THAT THE A.N.Z.U.S. TREATY REMAINS

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ACCEPTABLE TO ITS SIGNATORIES BECAUSE IT HAS NEVER BEEN

DIRECTLY INVOKED. THE TREATY GREW OUT OF THE SHARED EXPERIENCES AND MUTUAL CONCERNS OF THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND IN THE PACIFIC REGION DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. SOME MIGHT QUESTION WHETHER THE INTERESTS OF ALL THREE COUNTRIES REMAIN AS CLOSE AS THEY APPEARED TO BE 25 YEARS AGO. THE ANSWER MUST BE THAT THE NEED FOR THE A.N.Z.U.S.TREATY SURVIVES. WITHOUT IT, NEW ZEALAND WOULD BE ENTIRELY ALONE IN A POTENTIALLY HOSTILE WORLD. NO ALTERNATIVE CAN BE IMAGINED WHICH WOULD CARRY THE SAME PROSPECT OF SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY SUPPORT IN A CRISIS WITHOUT BINDING NEW ZEALAND UNDULY TO THE INTERESTS OF A MUCH LARGER POWER. THE TREATY REFERS SPECIFICALLY TO THE PACIFIC REGION: IT NEED NOT ENTANGLE NEW ZEALAND IN AMERICAN POLICIES ELSEWHERE. UNDER THE TREATY: "EACH PARTY RECOGNISES THAT AN ARMED ATTACK IN THE PACIFIC AREA ON ANY OF THE PARTIES WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO ITS OWN PEACE AND SAFETY, AND DECLARES THAT IT WOULD ACT TO MEET THE COMMON DANGER IN ACCAORDANCE WITH ITS CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES'. REFERENCE TO "CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES' IS A VITAL ELEMENT IN BOTH THE FORM AND IMPORT OF THE TREATY.

4. "LESS FORMALLY, THE TREATY CREATES A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND TWO MUCH SMALLER DEMOCRACIES WHICH ENABLES THOSE COUNTRIES TO ENJOY PRIVILEGED ACCES TO AMERICAN LEADERS. THE NEW ZEALAND AND AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS IN WASHINGTON LAST WEEK APPEAR TO HAVE USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BERATE THE AMERICANS FOR THE OUTCOME OF EVENTS IN INDO-CHINA AND TO PRESS THEIR POINT OF VIEW ABOUT NEW RELATIONSHIPS IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. THE SECRETARY OF STATE (DR KISSINGER), WHOSE POLICIES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA AND IN THE MIDDLE EAST ARE IN DISARRAY, MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN VERY IMPRESSED; BUT THE AMERICANS WERE READY, NEVERTHELESS, TO RENEW THEIR SUPPORT FOR A.N.Z.U.S. PERHAPS THIS WAS, INDEED, THE RIGHT TIME FOR SOME PLAIN SPEAKING FROM THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THE UNITED STATES IS EMBARKING ON A COMPLETE REVIEW OF ITS POLICIES IN THE REGION: EVERY STATE IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA HAS TO ADJUST TO THE PROXIMITY OF A POWERFUL COMMUNIST NEIGHBOUR, FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS. INDO-CHINA AS THE BASE FROM WHICH THE LAST SUCCESSFUL INVASION OF MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE, AND INDONESIA WAS LAUNCHED 33 YEARS AGO - AN INVASION WHI?
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